

**BRIGETTE K. SMITH**  
Executive Secretary



**JAY HUGHES**  
Board Chair

**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS**  
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January 8, 2016

The 244<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite #207 in the James R. Larson Forum Building by Chair Jay Hughes, with Board Member Mark Watenpugh, Board Member Martin Spani, Board Member Brian VanCamp, Board Member Miland Walling, Firefighter Mike Reichenberger (Pierce Co. FPD #25), Executive Secretary Brigitte Smith, Assistant Attorney General Kathryn Wyatt, and Assistant Attorney General Tsering Cornell present.

The Board reviewed the October 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes. It was moved by Watenpugh, seconded by Spani, and carried that the minutes be approved.

**FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

Firefighter Mike Reichenberger asked to address the Board regarding the process to complete retirement papers. He explained that he had been a volunteer firefighter and fire commissioner with Pierce Co. FPD #25 for 30 years. He stated that he had to request that his retirement papers be sent to him twice, and that those retirement papers contain both his social security number and his banking information. The papers were sent to Pierce Co. FPD #26, since the two districts share a chief, but the chief lost the first set of papers. After the second set of papers were sent, Mr. Reichenberger completed them and sent them to the department and he waited about five days, then started calling them to follow up on the status, but his calls were never returned. Finally, the State BVFF Staff called to say that the papers were received, but not the banking information. He asked if the approval of the retirement papers could be done differently. Could retirees just send their papers to the State Board instead of to the local boards? The banking information should be kept separate from the rest of the papers.

Secretary Smith stated that it is not a normal practice to send the direct deposit paperwork with the retirement papers. She asked if Mr. Reichenberger had requested the direct deposit form at the same time he requested his papers. He said that he had. The normal practice is to send a confirmation letter to the firefighter once the paperwork has been completed correctly and they've been placed on the payroll. The direct deposit form is sent with that confirmation. However, if the firefighter requests the paperwork prior to that time, the agency sends them to the firefighter.

The Board asked if the staff could refrain from sending the banking information with the retirement papers, and Secretary Smith said that they could do that. If the firefighter insisted, however, she felt that the staff should still send the form, but inform the member that they should mail it directly back to the agency rather than forward it with the retirement papers. The Board also asked if the staff could check into leaving the social security number off of the third page of the papers. Secretary Smith said that would be a programming issue, but should be able to be done. That might not completely solve the issue. If the papers were lost between the agency and the department or member, it would prevent the number from falling into the wrong hands. However, it was necessary to have the member confirm their social security number in the paperwork. Because they had to confirm it, if the papers were lost by the department (as they were in this case), or lost between the department and the agency, the number would still be on the forms. Secretary Smith also pointed out that sending the papers directly to the agency for approval, rather than routing them through the department, would open the agency up to an audit finding. Having the local board of trustees review and approve the papers ensures that staff at the agency level cannot make up a fictitious firefighter to fraudulently receive retirement benefits. Not having that check and balance in place would greatly increase the agency's exposure to fraud and probably result in audit findings.

Firefighter Reichenberger also asked the Board if they could provide more direction to departments wishing to consolidate. He said that too many times, departments want to keep their power as much as possible, and that becomes a barrier to consolidation. Sometimes both chiefs will insist that they have to remain, or both secretaries will. Some departments

aren't willing to bend. Can there be set rules on consolidation that require that everyone has to reapply for their positions? Maybe the board could develop a set of directions or best practices for completing the process. The Board suggested that he check with the Chief's Association or the Commissioner's Association regarding his consolidation concern, since they really only have jurisdiction over the pension and relief system.

## OLD BUSINESS

Secretary Smith informed the Board that the staff and attorney had not made progress on a policy regarding illegal activities because of workload and changes within the AG's Office. She also doesn't anticipate being ready in time for the next meeting because of the legislative session and the staffing changes.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed a request for a PPD Award for Ruth Crear, Cowlitz-Lewis Co. FPD #20, for a fire service injury sustained on November 9, 2014. After reviewing the Independent Medical Exam report, it was moved by Walling, seconded by Spani, and carried to pay Firefighter Crear a PPD award of \$12,772.77 for her November 9, 2014 fire service injury.

The Board reviewed and approved (Spani moved, Watenpaugh seconded) the following Pension Participation Waivers:

- Trisha K. Tisdale, Clallam Co. FPD #2, April 1, 2015 through June 23, 2015
- Troy T. Tisdale, Clallam Co. FPD #2, April 1, 2015 through June 23, 2015
- Amy Long, Klickitat Co. FPD #3, for up to one year. Since the department did not specify the time period requested, the Board directed Secretary Smith to contact the department to determine the actual time necessary for the exemption.

The Board reviewed Secretary Smith's leave and pay records.

The Board reviewed and approved (Spani moved, Walling seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered #00851 through #00926 and various travel vouchers.

There was a motion by VanCamp, seconded by Spani, and carried that the retirement pensions and lump-sum settlements listed below be approved effective on the listed dates (Member Martin Spani excused himself from voting on Dalla Ferrel's retirement due to the potential conflict of interest):

		<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Adams, Howard R	South Whatcom	1/1/2015	300.00
Allen, Scott	Skamania #3	10/10/2015	180.00 @age 60
Babcock, Steven N	Cowlitz #3	1/21/2013	2887.69 Lump
Baillie, Bruce	Port Orchard	10/3/2015	137.70 @age 61
Barkley, Fredrick G	Chelan #5	9/16/2015	300.00
Benson, Irving	Yakima	1/1/2015	73.50
Bergstrom, Connie	Stevens #5	10/4/2015	300.00
Beyke, Rena	Kitsap #2	10/18/2015	300.00
Bjelland, Bernie	Okanogan #11	10/1/2015	280.00
Bjelland, Carl N	Okanogan #11	10/1/2015	280.00
Brown, SR, Terry L	Benton #1	10/15/2015	5454.23 Lump
Cecchetto, Carlo	Snohomish #19	9/18/2015	61.74 @age 63
Curtis, Garnett L	Central Mason F&E	10/1/2015	202.50
Darling, Greg M	Sunnyside	12/7/2015	3609.61 Lump
Dashiell, Paul	Spokane #2	8/22/2015	270.00
Dean, Tom L	Walla Walla #3	12/1/2015	290.00
Deccio, David L	Yakima #4	10/15/2015	300.00
Edie, Darwin K	Grant #8	11/22/2015	142.50 @age 62

Ferrel, Dallas C	Lynnwood	10/7/2015 J/S	243.60
Fields, Rickie F	Cowlitz #1	9/21/2015	3701.09 Lump
Fox, Joseph	Whitman #10	10/9/2015	200.00
Georgeson, James	Cle Elum	10/1/2015 J/S	228.80 @age 64
Gillespie, Sherry S	Yakima #14	7/1/2015	73.50
Glossen, James R	Yakima #5	10/1/2015	73.50
Grebb, Tommy D	Grant #3	8/26/2015 J/S	219.70 @age 64
Greenwalt, Ronald	Adams #1	9/14/2015	300.00
Hari, Earl I	Elma	11/1/2015	300.00
Hector, William	Walla Walla #3	10/1/2015	300.00
Hert, Steven J	Yakima #5	10/7/2015	300.00
Hill, Paul R	Raymond	10/1/2015	52884.84 Lump
Hindman, Dean K	Grays Harbor #11	6/9/2010	4572.18 Lump
Kachele, Drew G	Benton #1	10/1/2015 J/S	234.30
Kalsbeek, Elvin J	Whatcom #16	10/1/2015 J/S	245.40
Loneragan, Michael	Adams #5	10/1/2015 J/S	157.37
Meek, Clark O	Bothell	10/11/2015	5865.34 Lump
Merz, Richard J	Cowlitz #5	6/8/2015	130.50 @age 60
Millman, Jeffrey L	Lewis #15	10/1/2015 J/S	185.14 @age 62
Monrad, Carl B	Skagit #10	12/1/2015	228.00 @age 62
Moore, Jerry E	Douglas Okanogan #15	12/1/2015	300.00
Mundy, Norman D	Buckley	10/8/2015	252.00 @age 63
Murphy, Michael E	Skagit #17	9/29/2015	3368.97 Lump
Naef, Virginia	Whatcom #16	10/15/2014	3116.71 Lump
Orahood, Gary L	Bothell	10/29/2015	252.00 @age 63
Parsons, William C	Cowlitz 2 F&R	7/11/2015	150.00
Pedersen, Gerald	Wahkiakum #1	8/18/2015	252.00 @age 63
Peltier, Ronnie J	Whatcom #5	5/10/2015	3609.61 Lump
Peterson, Clarke	Whatcom #19	11/19/2015	300.00
Petrie, Thomas W	Ione	10/12/2015 J/S	250.50
Poch, Robert	Okanogan #2	9/23/2015 J/S	240.30
Roach, Barry L.	Spokane #3	10/7/2015	3762.24 Lump
Rontondo, Gerald T	So Pierce F&R	11/10/2015	135.00
Scrupps, Jay A	Odessa	10/13/2015	300.00
Shaw, Reg E	Cowlitz #3	1/22/2013	70.00
Singer, Betty J	Grays Harbor #11	10/31/2015	2611.87 Lump
Singletary, Randy	Pierce #5	12/12/2015	6528.33 Lump
Sliva, John E	Grays Harbor #2	11/26/2015	300.00
Snyder, Bruce G	Grant CO Sheriff	9/15/2015 J/S	62.14
Soltwisch, Michael	Douglas #2	10/13/2015	5586.03 Lump
Spahr, Mark D	Skagit #17	10/25/2015 J/S	252.30
Suess, Sandra M	Whitman #11	8/15/2015	3850.25 Lump
Sutphen, Robert R	Yakima #6	10/22/2015	187.50
Swann, David	White Salmon	7/25/2015	300.00
Swartz, John A	South Bend	9/12/2015	63.84 @age 62
Swift, Cheryl (James)	King #20	8/26/2015 SURV	2448.54 Lump
Vance, Glen P	Montesano	12/1/2015	300.00
Wesley, George E	Klickitat #9	11/10/2015	210.00
White, Larry S	Grays Harbor #14	11/10/2015 J/S	234.30
Wisdom, Douglas A	Montesano	8/4/2015	228.00 @age 62

GOOD OF THE ORDER

AAG Tsering Cornell shared with the Board that she had received the final dismissal order in the Brewer Consulting Case. This ends any and all litigation in the matter and, because his bankruptcy was also finalized, the Board has recovered all of the judgment they can.

Additionally, AAG Cornell introduced the new Assistant Attorney General that will be advising the staff and board, Kathryn Wyatt, and explained the transition process between the two attorneys.

SECOND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No public was present.

There was a motion by VanCamp, seconded by Spani, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 11:00 am.

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Brigette K. Smith, Executive Secretary

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